lt Metraux E-5 (1934-1935). 1940
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

287 413 Tapa strips were sewn together over the edge of a piece of wood carved into the form of a club (*paoa tia ana*) or a wooden or bone plate. A whalebone plate serving this purpose was collected by Geiseler (fig. 22, *c*) which is identical to a breast ornament (pp. 230, 231); its function as a support may be a later specialization.

294 287 Geiseler collected a robe made of four distinct layers of tapa. It is composed of basted strips 35 cm. wide which run across the longer side. The threads are 2-ply twisted cords forming rows of stitches at right angles to the length of the strips. The stitches are 1 cm. long, and at intervals of 4 to 5 cm. At the edges, the threads are brought back and fastened on the back surface with a running stitch 2 cm. long. Stitches were sometimes used for decorative purposes.

287 Two coarser tapa sheets were purchased by the Franco-Belgian Expedition. On both sheets, the strips are sewn together with irregular hemming stitches. The edges of the strips are sewn only where they tend to bulge. The sheets are sewn across with rows of basting stitches to hold the strips together. On one sheet these stitches are 7 or 8 cm. apart and on the other 2 cm. apart. The threads are fastened at the edges with a back stitch and the ends of the threads are lost in the material. No tapa from Easter Island shows any trace of the use of a glutinous substance to stick the strips together.

287 413

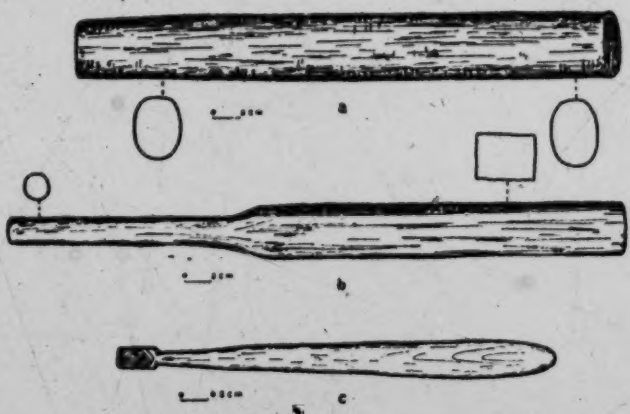

FIGURE 22.—Tapa beaters and support for sewing (Mus. f. Völkerkunde, Berlin): *a*, simple oval stick, probably a piece of wood picked up for temporary use and then discarded, 44.5 cm. long, diameter at center 5 cm. (VI.4876); *b*, flat beater with upper and lower surfaces slightly slanting toward proximal end, rounded, slightly pentagonal handle separated from beater by distinct shoulders on two sides, all surfaces smooth, shows signs of use; total length 46 cm., beater 4.5 cm. wide and 3.5 cm. thick, handle 2 cm. wide and 2 cm. thick at butt end (VI.4916, collected by Geiseler in 1884); *c*, wooden club used as support for sewing tapa, 102 cm. long (Geiseler coll. no. 61).

COMPARISON WITH TAPA ON OTHER POLYNESIAN ISLANDS

287 171 The paper mulberry did not thrive in the cold climate of Easter Island and the supply of bark cloth was always meager. The Easter Island tapa-making technique is, in general, identical with that of the rest of Polynesia.

The soaking of the bast in water for a few days—generally after a preliminary beating—is called "retting" by Burrows, who studied the distribution